

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

106th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 327

October 14, 1999, 6:03 p.m.
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CAMPAIGN FINANCE/Internet Disclosure of Federal-State-Local Contributions

SUBJECT: Campaign Finance Act . . . S. 1593. McCain amendment No. 2294.

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 77-20

SYNOPSIS: As introduced, S. 1593, the Campaign Finance Act, will make all contributions to national political parties subject to "hard money" contribution limits and will subject "soft money" contributions to State and local parties to "hard money" limits if the money is spent in elections which include Federal candidates of those parties. ("Hard money" refers to a contribution the size of which is limited by law and which is subject to extensive reporting requirements; "soft money" refers to a contribution the size of which is not limited by law. Currently, contributions to political parties that are to be used for expressly advocating the election or defeat of particular candidates are subject to hard-money restrictions, and contributions for generic party activities, such as voter registration drives, are regulated as soft-money contributions. National political parties must report soft money expenditures and other expenditures (such as expenditures for issue advocacy, which is to advocate particular viewpoints rather than candidates). Soft money and issue advocacy expenditures by other groups, such as the Trial Lawyers Association or labor unions, are not subject to Federal Election Commission (FEC) reporting requirements.) The bill will also make it an "unfair labor practice" for a labor union to fail to tell those non-union employees who are required by law to pay for union representation that they may file written requests (that must be honored) to have their payments reduced by a percentage equal to the percentage of their payments that are being spent on political activities. (The Supreme Court has found that it is illegal for unions to use payments from non-union employees for political purposes if they object; it has not ruled on the legality of unions using dues from union members for political purposes against the objections of those members.)

The McCain amendment would require State and local campaign committees to report all campaign contributions to the FEC that they are required to report to State and local governments under State and local law. Also, it would require all campaign contributions to political committees that were made within 90 days of an election to be reported to the FEC within 24 hours of receipt and to be posted by the FEC on the Internet within 24 hours of being reported.

(See other side)

YEAS (77)				NAYS (20)		NOT VOTING (3)	
Republican (34 or 63%)		Democrats (43 or 100%)		Republicans (20 or 37%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (1)	Democrats (2)
Abraham	Hatch	Akaka	Johnson	Bond		Chafee ⁻²	Kennedy ⁻²
Allard	Helms	Baucus	Kerrey	Cochran			Kerry ⁻²
Ashcroft	Hutchison	Bayh	Kohl	Collins			
Bennett	Jeffords	Biden	Landrieu	Coverdell			
Brownback	Lugar	Bingaman	Lautenberg	Enzi			
Bunning	Mack	Boxer	Leahy	Gramm			
Burns	McCain	Breaux	Levin	Gregg			
Campbell	McConnell	Bryan	Lieberman	Hagel			
Craig	Roberts	Byrd	Lincoln	Hutchinson			
Crapo	Roth	Cleland	Mikulski	Inhofe			
DeWine	Santorum	Conrad	Moynihan	Kyl			
Domenici	Sessions	Daschle	Murray	Lott			
Fitzgerald	Shelby	Dodd	Reed	Murkowski			
Frist	Smith, Gordon	Dorgan	Reid	Nickles			
Gorton	Specter	Durbin	Robb	Smith, Bob (I)			
Grams	Thomas	Edwards	Rockefeller	Snowe			
Grassley	Warner	Feingold	Sarbanes	Stevens			
		Feinstein	Schumer	Thompson			
		Graham	Torricelli	Thurmond			
		Harkin	Wellstone	Voinovich			
		Hollings	Wyden				
		Inouye					

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

Those favoring the amendment contended:

This amendment will improve current disclosure laws to give voters more information on who is contributing to political parties. Specifically, it would require all information that currently must be reported under State and local law to also be reported to the FEC, and it would require contributions that were made within 90 days of an election to be reported within 24 hours and posted on the Internet within 48 hours. Americans have a right to know this information, and we do not think it will be burdensome to political parties. We urge our colleagues to accept this amendment.

Those opposing the amendment contended:

We object to this amendment on federalism grounds. One part of the amendment requires political parties to provide information to the Federal Government on contributions related to State and local elections. The Federal Government should not impose mandates on the conduct of State and local elections that have no bearing on Federal elections.